

# Mid-Atlantic FOCUS



A Newsletter for Customers of the GSA Public Buildings Service

Spring 2006

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Focus on the Web at: [www.gsa.gov/midatlanticfocus](http://www.gsa.gov/midatlanticfocus)

## GSA Completes First Phase of SSA Operations Building Renovations

**G**SA has reached a milestone in the Operations Building renovation at the Social Security Administration's (SSA) National Headquarters Campus in Woodlawn, MD. Phase I of the two-phase, one million square foot modernization project is now complete.

The Operations Building, originally constructed in 1957, is undergoing a complete overhaul. The end of Phase I marks the completion of renovations on the building's west side. Floors 1 through 5 have undergone major renovations complete with new architectural finishes. The south side building entrance has been modernized with a new, contemporary look. In addition to space improvements, SSA employees in the facility will also benefit from upgraded heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, and new lighting, power, and telecommunication systems.

SSA is now in the process of moving over 2,000 employees into this newly renovated space. These occupants will be able to enjoy their office space while the east side of the building undergoes similar renovations in Phase II. The second Phase of construction for floors 1 through 5 is scheduled to begin in May 2006, with completion scheduled for May 2007.

With Phase I now complete, Operations Building tenants will be happy to hear that the conveniences they rely on will be moving to their permanent locations. The Credit Union, Self Service Store, Health Unit, and Cafeteria will all be "open for business" this spring.

*continued on page 2*

*SSA Operations Building, South Entrance*



# From the Desk of the ARA



While serving for the last several months as Acting Assistant Regional Administrator (ARA) of the GSA Mid-Atlantic Region,

Public Buildings Service (PBS), I've had the opportunity to work with many gifted people throughout government. At the heart of our government are talented, dedicated, hardworking people who are committed to serving our nation. The experience has reminded me why I so thoroughly enjoy working in federal government.

My acting role was made permanent in February, when I was honored to be selected as the new PBS Mid-Atlantic ARA. Having spent 30 plus years in GSA, I've met and worked with many of you. I am excited to continue our work together. Some names and faces in the federal sector are new to me, and I hope to meet with you and learn more about how PBS can help you advance the missions of your agencies.

With an inventory of over 345 million square feet of workspace, housing one million federal employees in 2,000 American communities, we have a huge responsibility here at PBS. We are up to the challenge. PBS has become a recognized leader in real property asset management and has taken a prominent role on the Federal Real Property Council. Through our portfolio restructuring efforts, PBS successfully disposed of 27 vacant or underutilized properties in 2005, improving the utilization of our government owned and leased assets.

We're also operating our buildings efficiently, with PBS cleaning, maintenance, and utility expenses 10.5 percent below private sector benchmarks. Despite the budget constraints we all face, we're making smart investment decisions and making great strides in improving the condition of our building inventory.

I am proud to be part of this world-class organization, and I look forward to partnering with you. 

Rob Hewell  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Public Buildings Service  
Mid-Atlantic Region



*Detail of Atria Ceiling*

*continued from front cover*

## GSA Completes First Phase of SSA Operations Building Renovations

Donna Siegel, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Management, is thrilled with the renovations to date. "The Operations renovation is absolutely gorgeous," says Siegel. "We have received so many compliments!"

GSA awarded the construction contract for the Operations Building renovation to Hensel Phelps Construction Company in April 2003. Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates designed the renovation, and Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. is providing construction management services. Through the incorporation of sustainable design elements, the project team hopes to obtain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the facility, which recognizes buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work.

The Operations Building renovation is the fourth in a series of seven projects aimed at modernizing the entire SSA Headquarters campus. The completion of Phase II will bring us one step closer to completely modernizing SSA's Headquarters Campus, enabling SSA to better serve the American public and carry out their mission well into the future. 

*SSA Operations Building South Atria View from Level 4*



## GSA Client Profile:

# Donna Siegel



**Associate Commissioner for  
Facilities Management  
Social Security Administration**

**Donna acknowledges  
a strong partnership  
between GSA and SSA  
has produced great  
results.**

For the past three years, Donna Siegel has brought talent and enthusiasm to the job of Associate Commissioner for Facilities Management in the Social Security Administration (SSA). In GSA's Mid-Atlantic Region, we have the good fortune to work closely with Donna and her headquarters staff to plan and carry out all facilities changes and upgrades in support of SSA Headquarters in Woodlawn, MD. In Donna's short tenure as Associate Commissioner she has successfully overseen a volume of change, both planned and completed, that is unprecedented since the headquarters was first built in Woodlawn almost a half century ago.

Donna is responsible for all aspects of facilities planning and management, as well as oversight of construction and leasing, environmental concerns, and security for the entire national inventory of SSA locations. She is also responsible for emergency response at SSA Headquarters, and advising and providing direction to SSA Regional Offices regarding emergency response procedures. To put that into perspective, SSA provides housing for approximately 64,000 employees in a national network of approximately 1,500 locations.

When asked to comment on the qualities she brings to the table, Donna referred to herself as "the glue." She believes her strengths relate to her ability to make the more technical aspects of facilities understandable to those whose business is outside the facilities realm. She has good instincts for knowing how to present and explain ideas.

Donna is quick to point out the invaluable role of her staff. She says that her Deputy, Steve Aprile, has an inclusive management style that she finds very compatible with her own. "The more people at the table, the better the results," says Donna. "Otherwise you might end up with half a camel."

Donna acknowledges a strong partnership between GSA and SSA has produced great results. With the first phase of SSA's Operations Building renovation just finishing up, she is looking forward to collaborating with GSA to accomplish an ambitious plan to revamp the SSA Altmeyer Building, which houses the SSA Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners, and several other projects relating to the planned strategic re-alignment of SSA facilities in the headquarters vicinity.

On a personal note, there *is* life beyond official duties for Donna. This fall she hopes to have her youngest child off to college. That means that she and her husband will have three children in universities. Donna and her husband will continue developing their skills on the dance floor, although she says her husband refuses to compete. In addition, their home decorating flair recently landed them a feature on the front page of the Modern Life section of the *Baltimore Sunpapers*. In her down time, Donna enjoys quieter occupations like reading and doing crossword puzzles.

Donna is happy to be in a position to have the latitude to promote some of the incredibly talented people in her organization. She strives to make the work that they do more visible to the larger organization. Beyond that, she hopes that her legacy will be to accomplish good work that serves the next generation of SSA employees and their customers. **F**

# Efficient Building Operations through Traditional and Alternative Energy Conservation

In the Winter 2006 edition of *Focus*, we reported on GSA's efforts to comply with the President's Energy Conservation Directive. GSA has made great strides over the years reducing energy consumption in buildings and complying with related executive orders and mandates. The bottom line is that reducing energy consumption in buildings is just good business.

Over the past 12 years, GSA has implemented numerous energy conservation and building operation changes at the James A. Byrne U.S. Courthouse and the William J. Green, Jr. Federal Building in Philadelphia. These efforts have generated extensive savings in terms of both energy conserved and dollars spent. Most recently, GSA replaced a less efficient manual control system on the facility's boilers with automatic boiler controls, reducing gas consumption by approximately 7 percent. We've also replaced inefficient fluorescent lighting, installed energy-saving lamps in exit lights, and installed motion sensors to control stairwell light fixtures. When comparing the annual electrical consumption for FY 2005 with consumption in FY 1993, results demonstrate a savings of 8 million kilowatt hours, which translates to an annual savings of \$716,000 for American taxpayers.

*James A.  
Byrne U.S.  
Courthouse  
Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania*

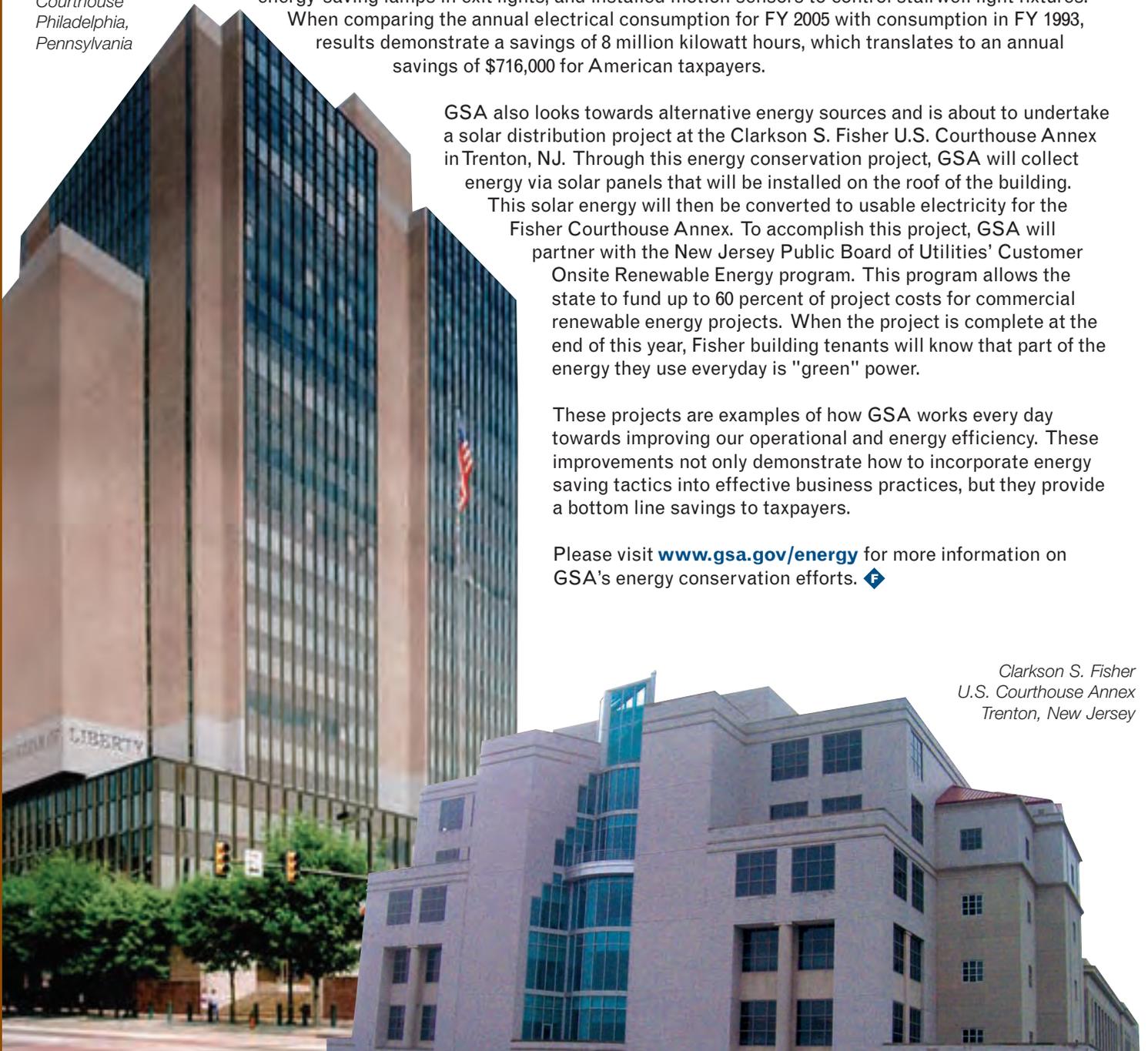
GSA also looks towards alternative energy sources and is about to undertake a solar distribution project at the Clarkson S. Fisher U.S. Courthouse Annex in Trenton, NJ. Through this energy conservation project, GSA will collect energy via solar panels that will be installed on the roof of the building.

This solar energy will then be converted to usable electricity for the Fisher Courthouse Annex. To accomplish this project, GSA will partner with the New Jersey Public Board of Utilities' Customer Onsite Renewable Energy program. This program allows the state to fund up to 60 percent of project costs for commercial renewable energy projects. When the project is complete at the end of this year, Fisher building tenants will know that part of the energy they use everyday is "green" power.

These projects are examples of how GSA works every day towards improving our operational and energy efficiency. These improvements not only demonstrate how to incorporate energy saving tactics into effective business practices, but they provide a bottom line savings to taxpayers.

Please visit [www.gsa.gov/energy](http://www.gsa.gov/energy) for more information on GSA's energy conservation efforts. 

*Clarkson S. Fisher  
U.S. Courthouse Annex  
Trenton, New Jersey*



# Ask a RAM

Our Regional Account Managers (RAMs) receive quite a few inquiries from our tenants regarding how to prepare for an expiring lease. We thought we would take this opportunity to share the below information with our readers...

## QUESTION:

**My lease will expire in a couple years. What do I need to do to prepare?**

## ANSWER:

Approximately 18-24 months prior to lease expiration, GSA will contact the appropriate person in your agency to conduct a needs assessment. While on the surface 18-24 months may seem somewhat premature, your attention and prompt response ensures adequate time for us to work with you to develop your detailed requirements, along with budget estimates, and commence the acquisition process.

## The following questions may be useful should your agency be considering a replacement lease:

- Are there any changes in your mission/program that need to be considered?
- Is your current space adequate for your needs? Why or why not?
- Are there any special or unique requirements?
- Do you anticipate a long-term or short-term occupancy?
- Are there any budget constraints?
- Where does your agency need to be located?

It is important to note that in accordance with the Competition in Contracting Act (CICA), GSA is required to seek competitive offers for alternate leased space at the expiration of most leases. Accordingly, as the end of any Occupancy Agreement (OA) term approaches, your agency should begin budgeting for the possible physical move to a new location, since your agency is responsible for those expenses more often than not.

Rest assured that as we move forward through the procurement process, GSA stands committed to keeping you informed and delivering as promised.

Our RAMs always welcome your questions and are committed to responding in a timely manner. You can submit a question for potential inclusion in Focus by writing us at [r3.custserv@gsa.gov](mailto:r3.custserv@gsa.gov) or by contacting one of our RAMs. We look forward to hearing from you! 

## **PBS Regional Account Managers**

**Peggy Murr**     [peggy.murr@gsa.gov](mailto:peggy.murr@gsa.gov)     (215) 446-2888  
**John Singleton**     [john.singleton@gsa.gov](mailto:john.singleton@gsa.gov)     (215) 446-4496  
**Pat Zucca**     [pat.zucca@gsa.gov](mailto:pat.zucca@gsa.gov)     (215) 446-2889

# GSA Updates Delegation of Leasing Authority Regulations

**O**n May 25, 2005, Federal Management Regulation (FMR) Bulletin 2005-B1, "Delegations of Lease Acquisition Authority-Notification, Usage, and Reporting Requirements for General Purpose, Categorical, and Special Purpose Space Delegations," was published in the Federal Register (Volume 70, Number 100).

This FMR Bulletin cancels and supersedes previous guidance issued in September 1996 by then-GSA Administrator David J. Barram to the heads of federal agencies advising them of a new lease delegation program called "Can't Beat GSA Leasing," also referred to as the "Provider of Choice" delegation program.

In general terms, should an agency without its own independent leasing authority choose to not use GSA as their provider of workplace solutions, that agency is required to use one of the three types of blanket lease delegations offered by GSA: (1) General Purpose, (2) Categorical, or (3) Special Purpose. The new FMR Bulletin details an agency's responsibilities prior to exercising a delegation, as well as reemphasizes and updates the notification and reporting requirements specified for all delegations of leasing authority.

## These responsibilities include:

- written notification by the head of the federal agency of the need for general purpose space and the intent to exercise the authority granted in the delegation
- the name of the contracting officer conducting the procurement
- a Limited Acquisition Plan for the procurement
- the agency's contracting officer be registered in the Acquisition Career Management Information System (ACMIS).

An agency may exercise the authority contained in the General Purpose Space Delegation, and under limited circumstances the Special Purpose Space Delegation, only after GSA notifies the agency in writing that suitable federally controlled space is not available to meet their space need.

Once the delegation request is reviewed and GSA issues a finding of no available federally controlled space, the delegation requires the agency to acquire and utilize space in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. The delegated agency is also required to maintain the capacity to support all delegated leasing activities, including a warranted contracting officer, legal review and oversight, construction and inspection management, cost estimation, lease management and administration, and program oversight.

Further definitions about each of these blanket lease delegation authorities, along with reporting requirements, may

*continued on page 6*

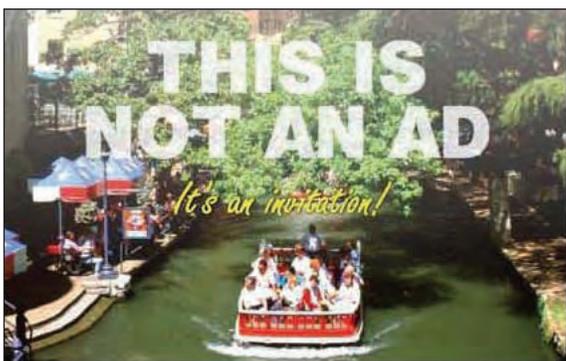
## GSA Updates **Delegation of Leasing Authority Regulations**

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be found by visiting [www.gsa.gov/fmr](http://www.gsa.gov/fmr) and selecting **Subchapter C-Real Property**.

The full text of the bulletin may be found by visiting [www.gsa.gov/fmr](http://www.gsa.gov/fmr) and selecting **FMR Bulletins**.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact any one of PBS' Regional Account Managers, or PBS Office of Customer Service **Director Marilyn O'Hara** at [marilyn.o'hara@gsa.gov](mailto:marilyn.o'hara@gsa.gov) or (215) 446-2886. 



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## GSA Awards Contract For New Courthouse in Newport News, Virginia

The Mid-Atlantic Region Public Buildings Service awarded a contract for the design and construction of a new, leased federal courthouse in Newport News, Virginia. Scannell Properties, a small business from Indianapolis, Indiana, will design and build the new courthouse and subsequently manage the finished facility.

The new courthouse will provide approximately 40,000 square feet of modern, secure space to meet the current and future requirements of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. In addition to the U.S. District Court, the courthouse will also provide space for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Clerk for the Eastern District of Virginia, the U.S. Marshals Service, and U.S. Probation Office.

When complete, the project will increase operational efficiencies, improve overall security, and provide the latest in courtroom technology.

The Courts and GSA worked together throughout the process of selecting a developer for this project. The Courts provided requirements to GSA early on in the process, and worked as part of the team to interview offerors, review concepts, and award the contract.



Renderings (shown here and on following page) of the new leased federal courthouse in Newport News, Virginia.

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“The judges are excited and pleased with the prospect of a new, modern courthouse facility in Newport News that will adequately serve the needs of the public, the bar, and the judiciary, and we commend GSA for their responsiveness to the situation.”

*The Honorable Rebecca Beach Smith  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia*

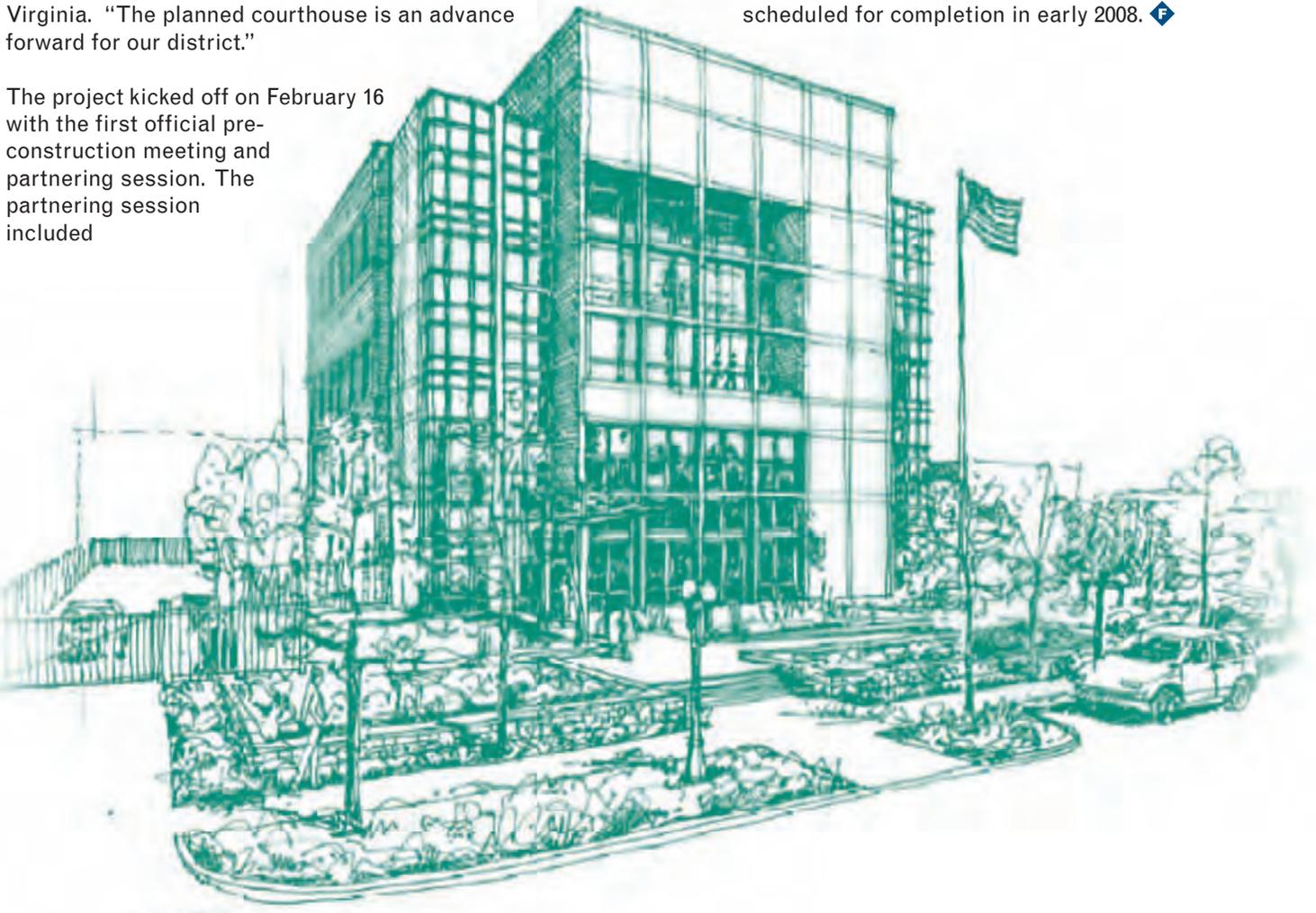
GSA also worked with the City of Newport News to acquire the land for the project. The property, located between 23rd and 24th streets at West Avenue in downtown Newport News, will become part of the lease award via a purchase option.

“The judges are excited and pleased with the prospect of a new, modern courthouse facility in Newport News that will adequately serve the needs of the public, the bar, and the judiciary, and we commend GSA for their responsiveness to the situation,” said Judge Rebecca Beach Smith, U.S. District Judge for the USDC, Eastern District of Virginia. “The planned courthouse is an advance forward for our district.”

The project kicked off on February 16 with the first official pre-construction meeting and partnering session. The partnering session included

representatives from GSA, our client agencies, and the City of Newport News. Representatives from the Scannell Properties development team, including Leo A. Daly Architects of Virginia as project designer and Kiewit Building Group as general contractor, also participated, along with Jacobs Facilities, Inc., who will provide construction management services for the project. Representatives from each organization discussed their expectations and shared their visions of a successful project.

Site work will begin in spring 2006. The courthouse is scheduled for completion in early 2008. 





# Philadelphia Child Care Centers Promote Health and Safety of Our Smallest Tenants

**G**SA recently completed the renovation of the Academy for Early Learning, a federal child care center in the Veterans Affairs facility at 5000 Wissahickon Avenue in Philadelphia. The completion marks the culmination of seven years of effort to upgrade all of the federal child care facilities in Philadelphia. The Academy for Early Learning, along with the child care centers at the William J. Green Jr. Federal Building in Center City and the Internal Revenue Service Main Campus in Northeast Philadelphia, has been redesigned to accommodate expansion needs and improve the overall environment.

There is much more to these renovated centers than meets the eye. They are a testament to GSA's commitment to sustainable design. Design elements as basic as the floor and walls reflect economic and ecological policies and practices that benefit people and the planet. All of the centers feature linoleum flooring produced from renewable materials such as linseed oil, rosins, wood flour, jute and pigments. The antimicrobial and bactericidal properties of the linoleum found throughout the centers prevent the breeding of micro-organisms including salmonella typhimurium and staphylococcus aureus. Also, the anti-static properties of the material reduce the potential for electric shock, while making the floor easier to clean since dirt and dust will not easily adhere to it.

Another natural product recommended in the *GSA Design Guide for Child Care* was used for the wall covering. The unique properties allow the product to "self heal" eliminating the damage of holes left in the walls from temporary displays.

The renovated federal child care centers in Philadelphia represent the optimal balance of cost, environmental, societal and human benefits, all while meeting the mission and function of the centers.

GSA supports the national commitment to provide quality child care as an essential component of a quality work environment. Please visit [www.gsa.gov/childcare](http://www.gsa.gov/childcare) for more information on over 110 childcare centers operating in GSA managed space. 



*Federal child care centers in Philadelphia include environmentally friendly walls and flooring.*



# New Directors in

## PBS Mid-Atlantic Chesapeake and Philatlantic Service Centers



*Dorothy Baratta, Director  
Philatlantic Service Center*

The PBS Mid-Atlantic leadership team, and our clients, will benefit from Dorothy's broad experience and respected business acumen.

Liliana will strengthen the PBS organization with her energy and her passion for customer service and responsiveness.



*Liliana DelBonifro, Director  
Chesapeake Service Center*

The Mid-Atlantic Region, Public Buildings Service (PBS) is pleased to announce the selection of Dorothy Baratta as the new Philatlantic Service Center Director and Liliana DelBonifro as the new Chesapeake Service Center Director.

Dorothy has been serving GSA clients in the Mid-Atlantic Region for more than 20 years, beginning her career with GSA in 1981 as an engineering student co-op. Upon graduating from Temple University with a bachelor of science in civil engineering, she began work as a mechanical engineer with the Navy before returning to GSA in 1985. She moved up through the ranks and was promoted to Section Chief in the former PBS Design and Construction Division, then Branch Chief in the former PBS Real Estate Division. Dorothy has also served as a Branch Chief in the PBS Portfolio Division, a PBS Realty Services District Director, Special Assistant to the Assistant Regional Administrator, and PBS Regional Budget Manager. She has played an active role in the development and ongoing improvement of the nationwide PBS performance measurement program. The PBS Mid-Atlantic leadership team, and our clients, will benefit from Dorothy's broad experience and respected business acumen.

Liliana joined GSA 18 years ago, after graduating from Villanova University with a bachelor of arts in psychology and a minor in business. She began her career in the former PBS Contracts Division, where she became a warranted Contracting Officer and gained a deep understanding of procurement issues. She transitioned to the role of Team Leader in our Allegheny Service Center, then Group Manager in our Chesapeake Service Center. She has lent her talents to numerous GSA national task forces and policy development teams. Known for her strong interest in employee development, Liliana will strengthen the PBS organization with her energy and her passion for customer service and responsiveness.

Please join us in welcoming Dorothy and Liliana to the PBS Mid-Atlantic leadership team.

We invite you to visit the Publications Library on [www.gsa.gov/midatlantic](http://www.gsa.gov/midatlantic) for an up-to-date organization chart for the GSA Mid-Atlantic Region. 

# Getting to Know Us: PBS Pittsburgh Field Office

**G**SA's Public Buildings Service (PBS) Field Offices provide a local presence for our customers throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region. PBS Field Offices are responsible for the management of the federal courthouses, office buildings, and leases in our regional GSA inventory.

The Field Offices provide a full range of real property management services to our customers throughout GSA's Allegheny, Chesapeake, and Philatlantic Service Centers. These services include facilities maintenance, operations and custodial services; contract administration; lease administration; repair and alterations; move coordination; overtime utilities and services; estimating; conference room scheduling; and more.

The Pittsburgh Field Office, part of the Allegheny Service Center, is based in the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and includes offices in Scranton and Harrisburg. Field Office Manager Steve Miller and his staff are responsible for the operations and maintenance for 12 federally-owned facilities, 4 SSA Trust Fund Buildings, and 165 leased locations throughout Pennsylvania (excluding the Philadelphia metro area) including Erie, Allentown, and Wilkes-Barre.

If you have any questions regarding the services provided by the Pittsburgh Field Office, please contact the Property Manager for your facility or Pittsburgh Field Office Manager **Steve Miller** at [stephend.miller@gsa.gov](mailto:stephend.miller@gsa.gov) or (412) 395-4300.



### Members of the GSA Pittsburgh Field Office Team

From Top R-L: Ed Skweres, Cathy Baker, Rick Murphy, Mike Jenca, Tom Fitzsimmons, Don Deering, Steve Miller, Doug Baker, Paula Blackwell, and Ed Steier; Bottom Row: Greg Lazar, Gary Kocsis, Natalie Slevin, and Shannon Kelly

We plan to highlight each of our six PBS Field Offices in future editions of *Focus*, providing an opportunity for our customers to get to know us better.

Please visit [www.gsa.gov/r3fieldoffices](http://www.gsa.gov/r3fieldoffices) for a complete list of all PBS Mid-Atlantic Field Office locations and contacts. 

PITTSBURGH FIELD OFFICE		
Area Served	Field Office Location	Contact
<b>Western Pennsylvania</b>	<b>GSA Pittsburgh Office</b> William S. Moorhead Federal Building	Rick Murphy (412) 395-4823
	Pittsburgh Post Office and U.S. Courthouse	Tom Fitzsimmons (412) 644-6549
	Erie Federal Complex	Mike Robie (814) 464-9701
	Greensburg SSA Building	Greg Washington (412) 395-6582
	East Liberty SSA Building	Doug Baker (412) 395-5887
<b>Central</b>	<b>GSA Harrisburg Office</b> Ronald Reagan Federal Building, Williamsport U.S. Courthouse & Chambersburg SSA Building	Doug Logar (717) 221-4457
<b>Northeastern Pennsylvania</b>	<b>GSA Scranton Office</b> William J. Nealon Federal Building	Ray Foote (570) 558-3807
	Allentown U.S. Courthouse & Federal Building & Hazleton SSA Building	Tracy Smith (570) 558-3805

## GSA Plans Survey of Federal Ordering Officials

**B**eginning this summer, the GSA Public Buildings Service (PBS), with assistance from the Gallup Organization, will conduct our annual nationwide Ordering Officials Survey.

In a 10-minute telephone survey, Gallup will be asking GSA clients in select agencies for feedback on how well PBS understands and meets their needs in the areas of leasing, construction alteration, and facility management. The survey will also measure attributes important in any business transaction such as timeliness, responsiveness, ease of doing business, and work quality.

### In 2006, Gallup plans to contact ordering officials in the following agencies:

- Corps of Engineers
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Navy
- Department of Veterans Benefits
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Internal Revenue Service
- Judiciary
- Office of U.S. Attorneys
- Social Security Administration
- U.S. Marshals Service

If you are contacted, please take a few moments and let us know how we are doing. Your feedback helps us improve our service to you. 

## A New Look for Focus

**W**elcome to the newly redesigned *Focus* newsletter. We hope you find our redesigned publication more enjoyable to read and navigate! We know you will find the same valuable content you are used to reading in *Focus*. As always, we welcome your emails to [r3.custserv@gsa.gov](mailto:r3.custserv@gsa.gov) for newsletter comments and suggestions. 



*FEMA prepares disaster relief supplies for shipment from their new warehouse in Frederick, Maryland.*

## New Warehouse Aids FEMA in Katrina Relief Efforts

**T**he Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) headquarters contacted GSA's Mid-Atlantic Region in the summer of 2005 with an emergency request to procure a warehouse to store medical supplies in Frederick, Maryland. At the time, FEMA was dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes in Florida. Soon after GSA received the request, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. What

was already an emergency turned into a "must have!" FEMA, GSA, and a private developer worked in tandem for the next seven months to construct a 229,000 square foot warehouse to support FEMA's National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), a section within FEMA's Response Division.

Serving as the lead for medical response under the National Response Plan, NDMS works in partnership with the Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, and Veterans Affairs. The NDMS is responsible for managing and coordinating the federal medical response to major emergencies and federally declared disasters. This includes responding to natural disasters, technological disasters, major transportation accidents, and acts of terrorism.

In addition to supporting the mission of NDMS, this new warehouse facility also houses supplies for the Veterinarian Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) and includes a FEMA pharmacy, fully licensed and approved by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The NDMS and VMAT can mobilize anywhere in the country by shipping out medical "caches" by the truckload from this new facility in Maryland. Imagining an Army MASH unit, including tents, medical supplies, generators and beds, provides an idea of what a medical cache would include. Many caches have been shipped from this facility to the Gulf Coast to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The make-shift medical clinics, hospitals, animal clinics, or sadly even make-shift morgues that were shown on post-Katrina television coverage likely came from this facility.

"GSA has done an outstanding job in delivering the facility within such a short time period," said FEMA Logistics Supervisor Scott Cromwell. "Our mission has been made much more efficient because of this new facility."

Everyone at FEMA, as well as the rest of the country, is keeping their fingers crossed that the hurricane season of 2006 will be a calm one. But should there prove to be storms, FEMA will be ready to respond and better able to mobilize because of their new centralized facility. 

# Mid-Atlantic FOCUS



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**Barbara L. Shelton**

Regional Administrator  
GSA Mid-Atlantic Region

**Linda C. Chero**

Deputy Regional Administrator  
GSA Mid-Atlantic Region

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